



Problem Solving Strategies Checklist

Communicate with Parents

- ◇ Build rapport with families and parents
- ◇ Allow time to gather information
- ◇ Learn about daily routines and habits
- ◇ Ask about emotional triggers
- ◇ Communicate openly and honestly about success and challenges

Collaborate with Service Providers

- ◇ Get a clear picture of child's level of functioning
- ◇ Set expectations according to child's level of development and functioning
- ◇ With family/parent permission, talk to child's service providers (ex. Speech, OT, PT, Behavioral Therapist)
- ◇ Request information on the child's needs and aim to create continuity of care

Create an environment that promotes success

- ◇ Structured and consistent routines
- ◇ Visual Schedules
- ◇ Position yourself at the child's level
- ◇ Clear expectations and commands

Get to know the child

- ◇ Redirect challenging behavior before it starts by identifying and preventing emotional triggers
- ◇ Praise Children Often
- ◇ Focus on what to do instead of what not to do
- ◇ Be specific: "Thank you for using gentle hands."

Stop and Think: Be a good role model

- ◇ Stay calm
- ◇ Take time to stop and think before responding
- ◇ Use feeling words to express how you feel
- ◇ Respond in a thoughtful way that is sensitive to the child's needs

Use encouraging words

- ◇ Encourage children to ask for what they need
- ◇ Provide opportunities to express how they feel
- ◇ Provide pictures or stories to promote expression



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Use scripted social stories

- ◇ Help children understand a social situation by describing the situation
- ◇ Show pictures of children in and responding appropriately to a social situation

Promote Emotional Regulation

- ◇ Be clear about rules and limits
- ◇ Give clear and appropriate consequences
- ◇ Create a calming space



Specific Resources:

Click on the link for tips about routine and schedules:

http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/pyramid_model.html

Click on link for tips for giving clear commands:

http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources/teaching_tools/toc/folder1/1b_communication.pdf

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/challenging-behavior/tips-tools-challenging-behaviors.html>

http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources/teaching_tools/ttyc_toc.htm

<http://penfieldbuildingblocks.org/category/home-and-family/behavior-and-discipline/>

<http://penfieldbuildingblocks.org/category/positive-parenting/>

<http://occupational-therapy.advanceweb.com/Web-Extras/Online-Extras/Sensory-Strategies-for-the-Classroom.aspx>

Resources:

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wmels-about.php>

Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices

<http://www.dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices>

Training Opportunities:

The Registry Training Calendar

<https://www.the-registry.org>

WI Early Care Association (WECA) Training Calendar

<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/>

MECA Special Needs Support Program (SNSP)

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/meca/snsp/default.htm>

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